

HANDBOOK ON THE GEOGRAPHIES OF GLOBALIZATION

Robert C. Kloosterman, Virginie Mamadouh, and Pieter Terhorst, eds. 2018. Amsterdam: Edward Elgar Publishing. 480 pages. ISBN: 9781785363832 (hardback).

The nature of modern societies and economies is becoming increasingly interconnected. Flows of goods, money, and people that occur on various spatial scales among different places on the globe are shaped by miscellaneous, continually changing geographic layouts. On the other hand, growing technological and social complexity in the world impacts the multifaceted processes of globalization.

The reviewed book, containing 31 chapters, does not present an overly optimistic and hyperglobalistic outlook on the effects of globalization. The TINA ("there is no alternative") approach is not dominant in it, and chapter 31 is filled with a description of alterglobalistic movements. All chapters are characterized by well-balanced academic discourse, supported by numerous references. Kloosterman and colleagues comprehensively expound to the reader how human geographers analyze the global problems. The

handbook presents the complexity of causes, mechanisms, and effects of global processes.

The content of the book raises no doubts and brilliantly reflects a very broad realm of interests within modern human geography. Hence, much more space was devoted to the geography of cross-border flows (e.g., migration, human and capital mobility, global production networks [GPNs]) than to the geography of places. The editors emphasize in chapter 1 that their goal was to answer the question of how global processes were expressed in space and, on the other hand, how spaces shaped such processes. The attempt at answering the first part of the question above was a great success. However, evaluation of analysis of the degree and scope of impacts of various spaces on the global processes leaves one with a certain feeling of want.

Without doubt, it is worth reading two inspiring chapters: "Do You Speak Globish?" (chapter 15), about the globalization and spatialization of English, and "Teaching Globalisations" (chapter 33), which emphasizes the plurality of the globalization phenomenon. Chapter 24, which sketches the issues of global security and describes the global production of arms, is also excellent.

In spite of a legible illustration of the complexity of global processes, the book lacks a description of several significant ones. Very little attention was devoted to human smuggling and drug trafficking. Neither was it said how "big data" has made the relations in the modern world more complex and global.

My evaluation of *Handbook on the Geographies of Globalization* relies on the answer to four questions concerning:

- overall academic quality of the presented discussion on globalization;
- scope of references to studies on globalization processes performed in noncore economies;
- differences between the reviewed book and competitive titles; and
- possibility of using the handbook for educational purposes.

First, big and emerging names in the field of human geography from Europe, North America, and Asia are a guarantee of quality. The book also tackles a definite majority of the so-called hot topics brought up recently in human geography, including megaevents, cultural industries, and global migration flows. The argument in the book is supported by several case studies (e.g., 2014 FIFA World Cup, 2016 Summer Olympics, Indian pharmaceutical firms in GPNs, global services production in the Philippines, US domination of the global film market). The majority of examples are presented briefly, yet they are always accompanied by a plethora of references relating to case studies.

Second, when I started to review the book, my attention was drawn to a grave disproportion in the origin of contributors. The majority come from advanced economies. Nevertheless, after reading the book it becomes clear that a number of examples describe global processes in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The book excellently shows how various countries in the so-called 'Global South' are included in globalization.

Third, in comparison to competitive titles, in particular *Global Shift* by Peter Dicken, *Handbook on the Geographies of Globalization* is clearly distinguished by a broad purview of the described dimensions of globalization. The authors tackle new subjects, for example, geographies of citizenship or health. As compared to other books devoted to globalization, *Handbook on the Geographies of Globalization* includes a very limited number of illustrations and tables (a mere 16 in total), which would have been a great tool for showing the described trends and processes. In my opinion, they are indispensable in such chapters as "Discussing Geographies of Mobility and Migration," "Labour Geographies," and "Food and Globalisation." This is definitely the greatest drawback of the reviewed book. This weakness is equalized by very carefully conducted logical argumentation, into which numerical data are skillfully incorporated. This manner of presenting the subject matter

is definitely more difficult in reception, especially in the era of a global reader who lives in an image-based society.

Fourth, on the back cover, the publisher and the editors assert that on account of several case studies, the book constitutes excellent material for advanced students. Indeed, the variety of examples and the synthetic nature of texts in the chapters make the book a good starting point, even for BA students. It may provide certain initial information (and even commentary); nevertheless, a thorough investigation of every subject definitely requires further reading. The editors claim that each chapter is to be treated as stand-alone and it is definitely better to study them separately. On the other hand, the entire book is an excellent material on the basis of which a course on the geographies of globalization may be successfully built.

Using various research perspectives and describing diverse and complex dimensions of globalization, *Handbook on the Geographies of Globalization* is an important synthesis of geographical studies on the global economy and society and offers insight into a rich panorama of geographies of globalization. It does not show a simplified image of the layout of social and economic forces, but rather sketches the actual complexity of the global mechanisms impacting various areas.

Grzegorz Micek

Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland